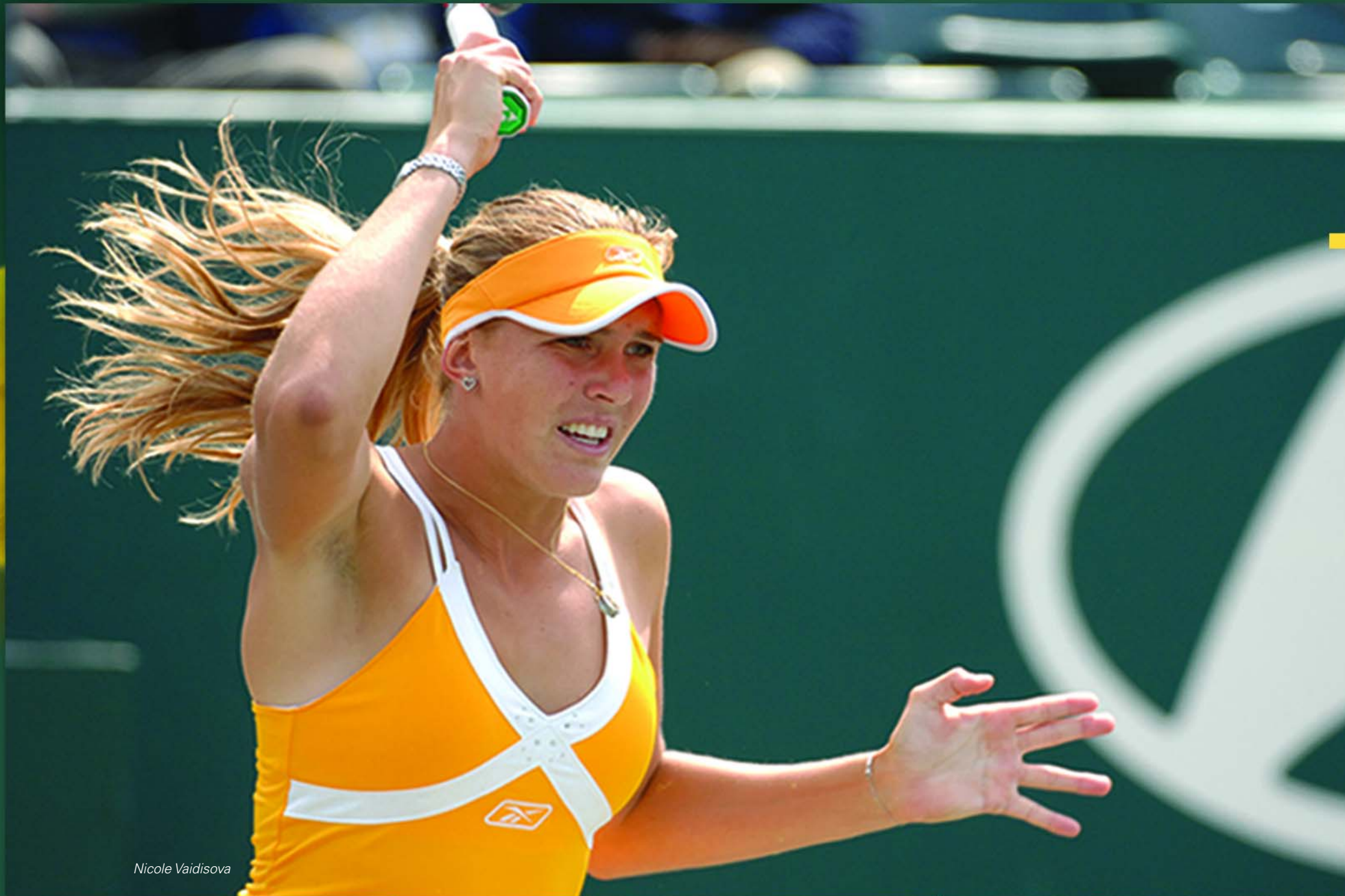


AN ISLAND FULL OF TENNIS

By Melissa Harrison



Nicole Vaidisova

Every April, 100,000 sports enthusiasts converge on Daniel Island's Family Circle Tennis Center for one of the hottest professional women's tennis tournaments around. More of a festival, this action-packed multi-day event is a frenetic mix of celebrity, action, on-court dramatics and activities designed for the whole family.

Sponsored by *Family Circle* magazine, the tournament is nationally televised and includes a roster of world-class players as well as lesser-known contenders blazing the professional circuit.

Past champions have included legends Chris Evert and Steffi Graf and more recent winners Jennifer Capriati, Justine Henin, Martina Hingis, and Venus Williams. In 2007, in unusually difficult 55-mile-per-hour winds, No. 2 seed Jelena Jankovic battled it out against No. 4 seed Dinara Safina to claim the coveted title at the \$1.34 million Family Circle Cup.

These matches, known for their unforgettable rallies year after year, serves clocking in at over 120 miles per hour, and even those famous moans and grunts, will have your heart pumping with excitement. Even while perched in the stands, the exhilaration and the enthusiasm from the crowd is enough to stir the most passive of fans to take to the courts.

Participants can catch the action day and night on five championship clay courts while enjoying a host of spectator activities throughout the nine-day tournament. Special events at last year's competition included a LACOSTE® Fashion Show; cooking demonstrations from a variety of celebrity chefs; Beach Tennis exhibitions with the founders of the exciting new hybrid sport; and tennis clinics for both juniors and adults. Spectators also enjoyed afternoon Happy Hours along with a "Winning in Doubles" luncheon with top doubles pros teaching insider tips and doubles strategies.

Beyond the excitement of the tournament is the beauty of Daniel Island. This is a "don't miss" destination in South Carolina, competition or not, and provides a majestic setting for the event. A burgeoning island town, recognized by the Urban Land Institute's prestigious "Awards for Excellence" program, the neighborhood development offers an impressive mix of shops, restaurants and recreational activities surrounded by marsh views, rivers and century-old oaks.

The Family Circle Cup is an especially memorable and action-packed way to spend a few days in the Lowcountry.

Find out more in Places...

Turn to page 164 in the "green pages" for more on the Family Circle Cup.



Venus Williams

Jelena Jankovic

Serena Williams

Dinara Safina

Photos courtesy of Chris Smith.